

Winthrop Social Work E-News

Fall 2012

Issue # 2

*Serving alumni and friends of the
Winthrop University Department of Social Work*

Web Links:

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Message from the Department Chair

Greetings! The Department of Social Work recently completed its site visit for reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. I am delighted to share the site team found “no concerns” in their review of our BSW and MSW programs and they praised faculty and students for the high quality of social work education at Winthrop. As the site team noted, students have a clear understanding that “excellence matters” in social work education at Winthrop.

We are delighted at this positive feedback as we at Winthrop constantly strive toward excellence in educating students. I thank our faculty and students who worked so diligently in preparing us for this successful site visit. I also thank our agency-based field instructors who faithfully support Winthrop students in field internships. Field education is the signature pedagogy of social work education, and we simply cannot fully serve the learning needs of students without the highly competent agency field instructors who partner with us. We

appreciate that they give back to the profession through their mentorship of Winthrop students.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of the Winthrop Social Work E-News as we highlight how excellence is demonstrated throughout our programs.

Feel free to pass this newsletter along to friends and colleagues. And, we would love to hear from you; contact us at socialwork@winthrop.edu. Best wishes to each of you for a joyful holiday season!



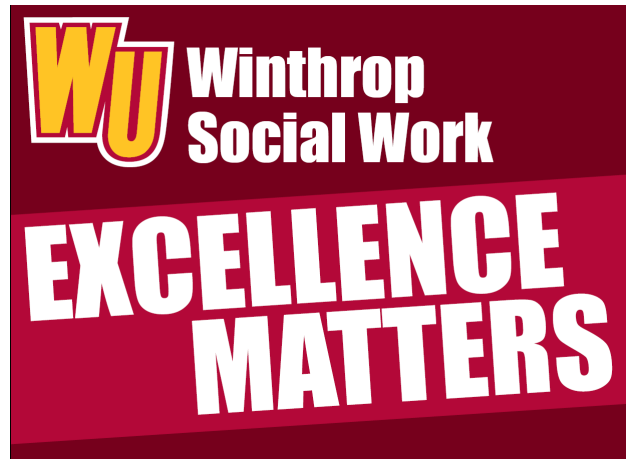
[Deana F. Morrow](#),
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Pursuing Excellence

Are you interested in pursuing a social work degree where excellence matters? If the answer is yes, then consider Winthrop University. Winthrop social work faculty are nationally recognized scholars who are highly committed to fostering a student-focused academic environment where excellence in learning matters.

Winthrop BSW students participate in research opportunities and engage in hands-on field placements. Winthrop MSW students focus their studies in our distinctive concentration in empowerment practice, an approach to social work that exemplifies the person-centered nature of the social work profession.

Winthrop social work students participate in the BSW Club, the MSW Student Association, and the National Association of Black Social Workers. They contribute to department governance and they engage with faculty across a wide range of distinctive learning opportunities and exciting professional internships. If you are thinking about a social work degree, think Winthrop University - where Excellence Matters.



Welcome to Winthrop!

Michelle Mitcham is the new administrative assistant in the Department of Social Work. Michelle completed her B.A. in Psychology at Coastal Carolina University and she joined the department in August.



Welcome
Michelle!

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BSW Program News

“Excellence” is a word that many of our students have used to describe their Winthrop Experience. The BSW program uses the word to describe the goal that we have of all of our students – we want them to be excellent! We provide classes for students where they will gain the knowledge, the skills and the hands-on practice to achieve this high standard. In order to provide the best and most current BSW education possible, we spent the past year revising and updating our curriculum. Our intent, as always, is to prepare excellent practitioners who are also prepared to excel in graduate school.

Our BSW student organizations have been very active this semester demonstrating excellence. They have volunteered at a banquet for the York Co. Christian Women’s Job Corp; held fundraisers to support relief efforts at Pilgrims’

Inn and the Haven; and joined several other student organizations to co-sponsor cultural events for National Adoption Month.

On campus, students participated in the inaugural BSW Policy Week as part of their policy course. Students were asked to analyze a state level policy and present their findings in a poster format. Bancroft Hall was full of energy during this week as many students were able to read and discuss the policies that our current state legislatures (North Carolina and South Carolina) are working on and how they impact vulnerable populations.

As you can see, our students are striving for excellence both in and out of the classroom, and appear to be on their way to achieving it!

[Kareema Gray, BSW program director](#)

MSW Program News

“Excellence Matters” is truly a touchstone value that we in the Department of Social Work are committed to, and consider in every decision we make. That commitment is repeatedly rewarded with the success that our students experience while in the program and after graduation. A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from William Kelly (MSW, '09). He wrote to let me know how he was doing and to thank all of the faculty for the opportunities and support he received while earning his MSW at Winthrop. He writes “This is William Kelly, that young man who came nervously into your office in 2007 inquiring about a social work degree. I am now a clinical social worker for the U.S. Navy and am the Department Head of the Fleet and Family Services office in Diego Garcia, a very, very small island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. I

am the sole mental health provider for a potential 2,600 sailors, contractors, and merchant marines. I would have never imagined an MSW taking me this far. Thank you again!”

William came from humble and challenging beginnings, spending much of his youth in the foster care system. He dared to dream of a different life and was determined, through hard work, to achieve just that. Upon graduation, William became a Health Services Collegiate Program (HCSP) Social Work Fellow installed at Johns Hopkins Hospital. There he received clinical supervision for the advanced clinical social work license to be a Navy Social Worker, entering at the rank of Lt. Junior Grade. William is living his dream, and is a great example of excellence.

[Sue Lyman, MSW program director](#)

Center for Social Welfare Research & Assessment

It is well-known that the pursuit of excellence begins with having a coherent purpose. In effective organizations, that purpose is steadfastly driven by the mission. To that end, the CSWRA spent several months thoughtfully redrafting our mission to reflect who we are today. This period of reflection afforded us the opportunity to be deliberate in identifying what we hold as important in our work.

With that in mind, the CSWRA works to enhance and support the initiatives of our community partners through research, assessment and evaluation.

We adhere to five core principles. *Service to students:* We maintain a commitment to nurturing the development of the next generation of professionals by seeking opportunities that are

inclusive and that enhance the learning experience of students.

Leadership: We recognize that we have been entrusted with a position of leadership by our stakeholders. Therefore we lead by communicating, training, experience, and example.

Excellence: We strive to do our best in all we do, directing us to develop a sustained passion for continuous improvement and innovation. *Diversity:* We value the experiences and perspectives that individuals and organizations representing all facets of our community bring to our work.

Equality: We are committed to preserving the rights of all members of our community through our work.

[Justine Gradillas, dir. of operations](#)

Notes from the Field Office

As I consider the word “excellence” in relation to the BSW and MSW field experience, several things come to mind. To achieve our goal of excellence, a minimum of three things must happen.

First, the match of student, field instructor and agency needs to be as accurate as possible. This takes time, critical thinking and solid communication from all parties involved. Field directors must take their time to accurately assess each student, field instructor, and agency in order to make a great match.

Second, students have to take responsibility for their own learning and have a desire to achieve excellence in practice. To successfully achieve this, they must show initiative, be willing to take some risks, and be committed

to professional growth.

Lastly, the field instructor must be willing to invest the effort and responsibility for teaching social work skills, while figuring out how to help each student achieve their individual learning needs and objectives within the agency’s setting. This takes dedication, selflessness, and patience as field instructors try to balance their many other job duties in addition to this added role.

While this may seem like an impossible feat, I am proud to say that it is not. It is done here every year, and with class after class, we reach excellence as we graduate Winthrop social workers who go out and change the world!

[Linda Ashley, dir. of field](#)

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Alumni Update

Wendy Adams, BSW '11, MSW '12

Since graduating in May, Wendy has become the executive director of The Haven, a men's shelter in Rock Hill, S.C. Recently she was featured in a newspaper article by "The Herald", and on "WRHI's" Straight Talk radio program, about her new role in this small, grassroots not-for-profit agency. Having only been in this role for about three months, Wendy is using her dynamic personality in combination with her great social work skills to bring attention to the needs of the homeless population of York County. Wendy describes herself as a "social worker at heart" who uses her interviewing and assessment skills to work with her clients to achieve *their* goals, certainly reflecting the empowerment perspective she developed here at Winthrop. Wendy shared about her efforts to collaborate with community partners and address the gaps in services affecting her clients, like access to transportation services. Listening to Wendy talk about the excellent work she is doing at The Haven, there is no doubt that she has a strong social work career ahead of her, and we are proud to call her one of our own!

Courtney Eidson, MSW '11

Upon graduation in May 2011, Courtney began working as a child/adolescent therapist for [SpringBrook Behavioral Health System](#). Just this past month, she was officially named one of two therapists chosen by the company to spearhead the implementation of a new treatment unit working with children who are diagnosed with autism. This program is the first of its kind in the Southeastern United States. Courtney shared that her senior capstone research project, along with her advanced field placement at the South Carolina Governor's Continuum of Care office, truly gave her the knowledge and skills needed to obtain this challenging and exciting new job. In fact, it was through Courtney's advanced field placement where she began working with the clients and staff at SpringBrook. Courtney is excited and passionate about making a difference in the lives of children and families living with autism. We too are excited to have one of our own leading the way toward treatment advances in the mental health realm of social work!

If you are an alumnus of the Department of Social Work and would like to give us an update on your work to be included in the newsletter, please e-mail Jennifer McDaniel at mcdanieljc@winthrop.edu.

Thanks For Giving Back!

MAKE AN
ONLINE GIFT



The Linda M. Ashley Scholarship

Linda Ashley '95 came to Winthrop as a non-traditional student ready to establish a new career in social work. She quickly fell in love with Winthrop University and the social work profession. She has continued to serve Winthrop's Department of Social Work ever since, first as a field instructor, and now as the department's director of field and continuing education. This scholarship was created in her honor to assist other non-traditional social work students who are working to fulfill their educational dream as well.

The Carolyn B. and Susan L. Boudreaux Scholarship

Susan Boudreaux '84 created this scholarship as a way of honoring her mother, who she credits as making her "aware of the benefits of a Winthrop education." Susan went on to earn a MSW at Boston University in just nine months - an accomplishment, she explained, made possible because of the strength of Winthrop's Department of Social Work. Undergraduate students who maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 will be eligible for this scholarship award.

The Ernestine C. Player Endowment for Graduate Studies in Social Work

Ernestine Player '55 obtained her B.S. in public school music. Having no social work programs in the state of South Carolina, she went to Virginia and obtained her MSW degree in 1958. This prompted Player to become one of South Carolina's earliest social workers, and she is often referred to as the "matriarch of social work" in the state. Her life of service inspired many others to follow her path in social work. This endowment will continue her civic legacy, ensuring that talented graduate students have the support they need to be successful.